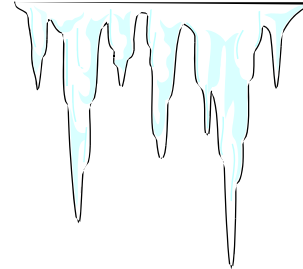
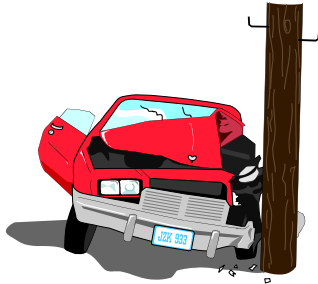


## 417th Base Support Battalion

# SAFETY BULLETIN



## BLACK ICE

Many accidents are reported, especially from November until April, where **BLACK ICE** was a factor.

Black ice is formed when there is moisture on the road surface which freezes when the temperature drops, if you have to scrape your windshield than there might be black ice. The moisture forms as result of bleeding of black asphalt road surfaces, water run-off from the roadsides, or from condensation. The ice formed is very thin, smooth and blends with the road surface making the ice very difficult to detect visually. It can form anywhere, but most often in shaded areas such as in forests and where buildings and other objects cast shadows. Because the decks of bridges and underpasses cool more rapidly, black ice will form quicker than on other road surfaces.

The vicious and dangerous aspect of black ice is that the driver can be on dry pavement for many miles and encounter black ice without realizing it until the vehicle is in a dangerous skid. When this occurs the driver is usually surprised and overreacts by excessive braking, steering, or acceleration. When the driver overcontrols the vehicle, it is almost impossible to keep control and stay on the road. Quite often an accident is the result.

Prevention of a **BLACK ICE** accidents centers on reduced speed, being aware of when and where **BLACK ICE** usually occurs, and knowing how to control your car in a skid should you encounter it.